

## Claims

1. An antimicrobial composition comprising

- (1) a mixture of iodide anions and thiocyanate anions,
- 5 (2) periodic acid or a salt thereof, and
- (3) at least one polymer or copolymer comprising as units
  - 10 (a) 1 to 100 % by weight of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated monomer comprising nitrogen and/or phosphorous containing groups,
  - (b) 0 to 99 % by weight of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated comonomer comprising acidic groups,
- 15 (c) 0 to 99 % by weight of at least one further comonomer, and
- (d) 0 to 5 % by weight of crosslinking comonomers.

20 2. A composition according to claim 1, wherein the amounts of the units of the co-polymer are:

- (a) 5 to 100 %,
- (b) 0 to 95 %,
- 25 (c) 0 to 75 %, and
- (d) 0 to 5 %.

30 3. A composition according to claim 1, wherein the amounts of the units of the co-polymer are:

- (a) 10 to 60 %,
- (b) 20 to 70 %,
- (c) 0 to 70 %, and
- (d) 0 to 5 %.

35 4. A composition according to claims 1 to 3, wherein the composition is a liquid composition.

40 5. A composition according to claim 4, wherein the solvent of the composition comprises water.

6. A composition according to claims 4 and 5, wherein the concentrations of the components in the solution are

0,01 to 100 mmol/l periodic acid or salts thereof,

5 0,005 to 50 mmol/l iodide ions,

- 0,005 to 50 mmol/l thiocyanate ions, and

0,01 to 10 % by weight polymer or copolymer.

10 7. A composition according to claims 1 to 6, wherein the composition further comprises another biocidal active compound.

15 8. A composition according to claims 4 to 7, wherein the composition further comprises a surfactant or emulsifier and the liquid composition is an oil-in-water-emulsion or a surfactant based solution.

9. Use of a composition according to any one of claims 1 to 8 as a microbicide.

10. Use of a composition according to any one of claims 1 to 8 as a preservative.

20 11. Use of a composition according to any one of claims 1 to 8 as a disinfectant.

12. A method of killing or suppressing bacteria, yeasts, fungi viruses or spores comprising contacting them with a composition according to any one of claims 1 to 8.